Cotton Textile Industry

3190. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing use of cheap synthetics and filament yarn has adversely affected the cotton textile industry; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to enable the cotton textile industry to overcome this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Appreciation of Rupee in the World Currencies

3191. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rupee has been appreciated in value against the major world currencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). the exchange rate of the rupee has been generally stable against the U.S. dollar so far during the current financial year. While the rupee weakened against the Pound Sterling by 11.5 per cent and by 1.5 per cent against the D.M. between March 1996 and November 1996, it strengthened by 2.2 per cent against the yen over the same period. The rupee's movements vis-a-vis other major currencies reflected the dollar's movements against these currencies. The Exchanges rate of the rupee against major currencies is given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Exchange Rates of the Rupee-Monthly Average, (FEDAI Indicative Rates)*

(Rupees per Foreign Currency)

Month/Year	U.s. Dollar	Pound Sterling	Doutsche Mark	Japannese Yen@
1	2	3	4	5
1996				
March	34.3936 (6.51)	62.5512 (7.08)	23.2919 (7.29)	32.4960 (6.57)
April	24.2391 (0.45)	51.8774 (1.30)	22.7440 (2.41)	31.8897 (1.97)
May	35.0105 (-2.20)	52.9799 (-2.08)	22.8341 (0.39)	32.8993 (-3.13)
June	34.9803 (0.09)	53.9448 (-1.79)	22.9014 (-0.29)	32.1315 (2.39)
July	35.5050 (-1.48)	55.1533 (-2.19)	23.5763 (-2.86)	32.5274 (-1.22)
August	35.6955 (-0.53)	55.3299 (-0.32)	24.1431 (-2.35)	33.1169 (-1.78)
September	35.7284 (-0.09)	55.7217 (0.70)	23.7672 (1.50)	32.5756 (1.66)
October	35.6404 (0.25)	54.4717 (-1.33)	23.3366 (1.85)	31.74.02 (2.63)
November	35.7353 (-0.27)	59.3710 (-4.88)	23.6376 (-1.27)	31.8032 (-0.28)

* FEDAI Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India Figures in brackets indicate percentage app/dep (-) over the preceding month.

@ Rupees per 100 yen.

Open Cast Projects

3192. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the locations of the open cast projects under the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) the names and the locations of the open cast projects closed/abandoned during each of the last three year;

(c) the quantity of coal blocked in these projects;

(d) the reasons for closure of these open cast projects and whether the Government are contemplating to reopen these O.C.Ps.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The names and locations of the open cast projects under the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. are as under :-

S.No.	Name of the OC Project	Location
1	2	3
1.	Khottadhi	Burdwan Distt. West Bengal
2.	Shankarpur	-do-
3.	Jambad	-do-
4.	Ardhagram	Bankura Distt.. West Bengal
5.	Kenda West	Burdwan Distt.. West Bengal
6.	Chore	-do-
7.	Bansara	-do-
8.	Tarsea	-do-
9.	Sonepur Bazari	-do-
10.	Sangramgarh	-do-
11.	Golrangdih	-do-
12.	Bonjemhari	-do-
13.	Mohanpur	-do-

1	2	3
14.	Nirsa	Dhanbad Distt.. Bihar
15.	Barmuri	-do-
16.	Rajpura	-do-
17.	Khoodia	-do-
18.	Rajmahal	Godda Distt.,Bihar
19.	Simlong	-do-
20.	Girija	Deoghar Distt.,Bihar
21.	Chitra (Ph.I)	-do-

(b) to (d). The details of the open cast projects or mines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. closed during the last three year are given below yearwise :-

	Names of OC Project	Location
1993-94	Dhandadih	Burdawan Distt., West Bengal
	Dobor	-do-
	Gangaram	Birbhum Distt.,
	Chak	West Bengal
	Palasthali	Dumka Distt.,Bihar
1994-95	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Dalmiya	Burdwan Distt., West Bengal

These coal mines have been closed mainly due to exhaustion of quarriable reserves are left in these mines.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of answer given to parts (b) to (d). of the question.

Export of Tea to Russia

3193. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has stopped the import of Indian tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any bilateral talk in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Import of Coal

3194. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import energy efficient coal from USA;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed by the Government to import the coal from the USA and other foreign countries; and

(c) the price at which Government propose to import the coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Under the present export and import policy, coal can be freely imported. Imports, if any, are to be made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. Government do not propose to import coal to meet the need to any consumer.

Pilferage of Coal from Coal Pitheads

3195. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government/Coal India Limited conducts regular checking of quantum of coal available in each of the coal pitheads;

(b) if so, the details of the checkings conducted by Coal India Limited during the last three years on each of the coal pitheads;

(c) the quantum of shortfall reported in each of the coal pitheads; and

(d) the action contemplated by the Government against the persons involved in pilferage of coal from pitheads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). CIL conducts annual pithead stock measurement in respect of each mine of every subsidiary. The details of shortfall in ECL, BCCL, CCL, WCL and SECL where stocks are exceeding the permissible measurement error with respect to Book stock in pitheads in last three years are given in the enclosed statement. No shortfall in stock measurement has been reported in NCL, MCL and NEC during the above period.

(d) Whenever pilferage of coal from pitheads are detected, the same are reported to the respective State authority through first information report (FIR).

STATEMENT

Company	Total No. working mines	Year	No.of mines shortage reported	Quantum of shortfall (million tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5
ECL	127	1993-94	31	0.66
		1994-94	38	0.32
		1995-96	12	0.05